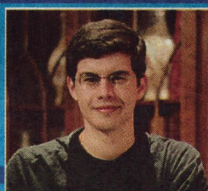




THE FUN DAY TIMES



Total fantasy
Funday meets up
with 19-year-old
author of Eragon,
Christopher Paolini

Page 5

Starry night
The Oscars take
place in LA tonight
so Funday previews
the big film awards

Page 9

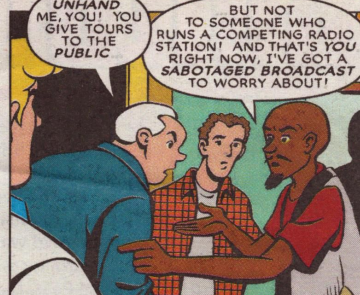
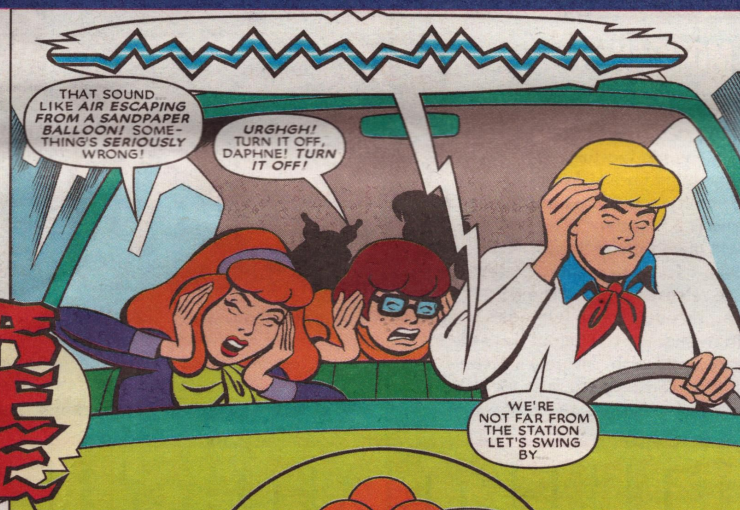


On your bike!
The Prize Haul
winners this week
will ride off with a
new mountain bike

Page 11

SCOOPY-DOO! in SCREECHY KEEN

The story so far - While on the road in the Mystery Machine, Daphne is trying to tune into a gossip show on the radio



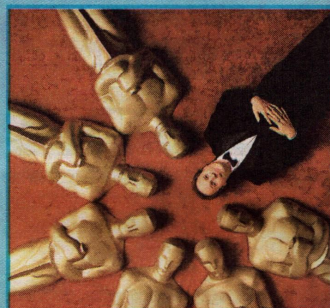
Continues next week!

7 DAYS

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD THIS WEEK

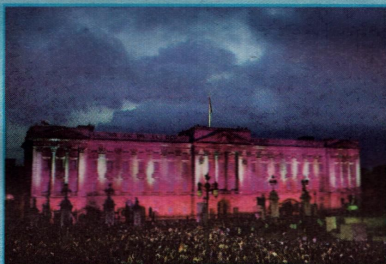
TODAY

American funnyman Billy Crystal [below] hosts the 76th Academy Awards [also known as the Oscars] in the Kodak Theatre, Los Angeles. See page 9 for our Oscars preview.



MONDAY

Buckingham Palace hosts a party to celebrate 100 Years of Fifa – world football's governing body. Fifa's executive committee will meet the Queen and Fifa President Sepp Blatter will meet Prime Minister Tony Blair. New car number plates are released today. The US carried out the first hydrogen bomb test 50 years ago today at Bikini Atoll in the Pacific. The fallout from the blast covered a Japanese fishing ship with radioactive ash, severely affecting the crew. Fairtrade Fortnight starts – the annual campaign to raise awareness of the Fairtrade mark on goods.



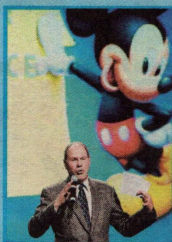
TUESDAY

Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands visits Germany to meet up with Federal President Johannes Rau and Chancellor Gerhard Schröder. She will also open the new Dutch Embassy building. New soft drink laws come into effect, meaning pubs and restaurants must display soft drink prices clearly.



WEDNESDAY

Disney Chairman Michael Eisner [below] will be fighting for survival at the Walt Disney Company AGM in Pennsylvania, USA. The big cheese is under extreme pressure to explain why Pixar Animation Studios has chosen not to renew its association with Disney when its current contract ends.



THURSDAY



The Royal National Lifeboat Institution [RNLI] was founded 180 years ago. The 231 lifeboat stations around the UK and Ireland are kept afloat by charitable donations. More than 22,000 pedigree dogs will be at Birmingham's NEC competing in Crufts, over the next four days, for the Best In Show title. Popular BBC news correspondent Rageh Omaar publishes Revolution Day – his account of the war in Iraq.

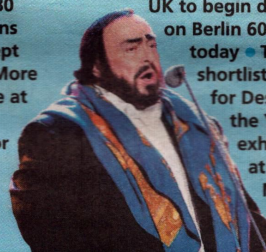
FRIDAY

Professor Frances Gotch from the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine in London, discusses the on-going need to discover how the human body's immune system is affected by all viruses, including HIV, before suitable vaccines can be found to combat them. If you're a Catholic, this is the day when you can make a difference by fasting for 24 hours and giving the money you would have spent on food to a good cause. This year CAFOD will be using the money raised to help the victims of the Rwandan genocide.



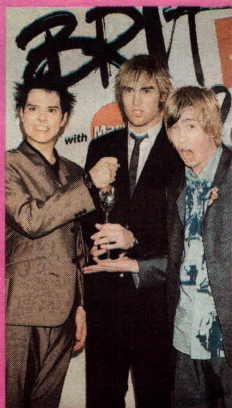
SATURDAY

Opera star Luciano Pavarotti [below] starts his series of farewell concerts at the New York City Metropolitan Opera House. He will visit concert halls all over the world and retire from singing on his 70th birthday on October 12, 2005. The US Air Force sent more than 800 bombers from bases in the UK to begin daylight raids on Berlin 60 years ago today. The four shortlisted nominees for Designer of the Year will exhibit their work at the Design Museum in London. Runs until June 13.



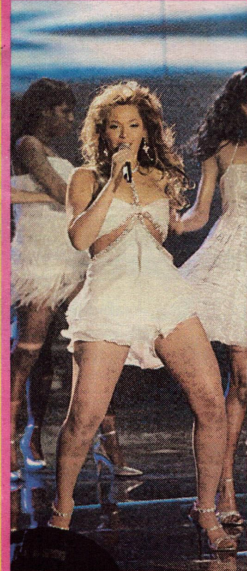
BUILDING THE BRITS

Funday looks at the work that went into creating the Brit Awards 2004



This year's Brit Awards surpassed previous shows with a glitzier and more impressive production. On TV, the event looked awesome, and in the vast 3,500-seat arena at London's Earls Court 2, the crowd was wowed by show-stopping live performances by Beyoncé, Outkast, The Black Eyed Peas, Busta and Missy Elliott, Alicia Keyes and Gwen Stefani. But while the live and TV audiences enjoyed the spectacle, the team who produced the show were reaching the climax of months of hard work. In the fortnight leading up to show, more than 550 people worked behind the scenes at Earls Court to put the stage set and lighting rig together. During that time, the crew ate 2,400 meals!

- It took 10 forklifts, four pallet trucks and five cherry pickers to construct the stage and arena.
- During the show, table guests tucked into a Mediterranean-style mezze selection, including salads, dips and flatbread. More than 30 chefs toiled for five days to get the food ready in time.
- Backstage, performers were pampered in the luxurious style to which they're accustomed. Designers decked out dressing rooms in a French Art Nouveau style, with lots of aubergine velvet, leather chairs and burgundy brocade cushions.
- All the stars and presenters chose whatever they'd like to eat from an à la carte menu that boasted everything from croque monsieur to steak frites.



COVER: CARTOON: SCORBY-GOOD AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ILLUSTRATIONS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © HANNA BARBERA (504)



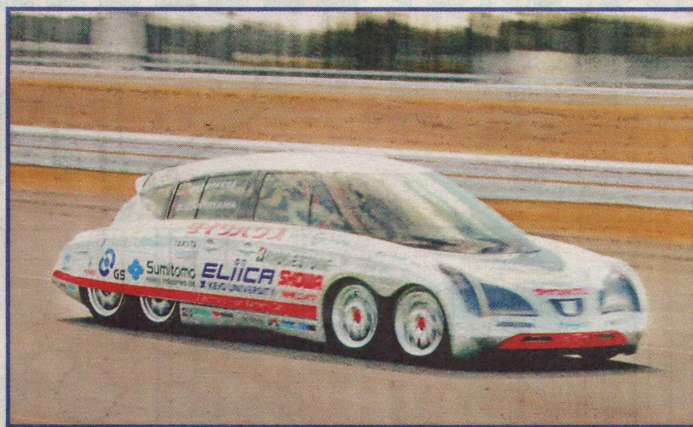
7 Days returns next week

NEWS



Turn turtle

With only seven species of marine turtle left in the wild and all of them threatened with extinction, the Marine Conservation Society has just launched an Adopt A Turtle campaign. All pledges to the cause will go towards the conservation of these terrific water beasts and their endangered environment. For £16, you get a welcome letter, a cuddly toy, an adoption certificate signed by conservationist David Bellamy, a fact sheet and poster, a portrait picture of your chosen turtle and a free newsletter. For more information go to www.mcsuk.org/acatalog/

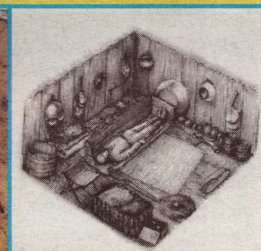


Green wheels

This new environmentally friendly car, constructed at Keio University, Japan, was given a test drive near Tokyo recently by former Formula One driver, Ukyo Katayama. Named Eliica, the electric car can reach speeds of 313kph and is powered by lithium batteries. Despite its size [it's 5.1m long] and boasting eight wheels, the car can only hold four people.

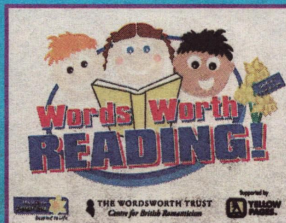
Going underground

A Saxon burial chamber has been unearthed in Prittlewell, Essex, much to the amazement of locals. The 3.6m-wide, 1.5m-high wood-lined chamber [about the size of a small bedroom] was found during a dig at a site that was known to contain gold coins and ornaments. The remains of the 7th century king buried in the box have dissolved and experts have so far been unable to identify him, but the find has been hailed a major discovery.



Worthy words

On Friday, March 19, thousands of school children across the UK are aiming to smash the world record for the largest poetry reading. The Words Worth Reading event will raise funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care's month-long Daffodil Campaign while also celebrating the bicentenary of poet William Wordsworth's Daffodils. It's not too late for you and your class-mates to get involved, so why not ask your teacher if you can take part. Find out more on www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil or by phoning the hotline on 0845 601 3107.



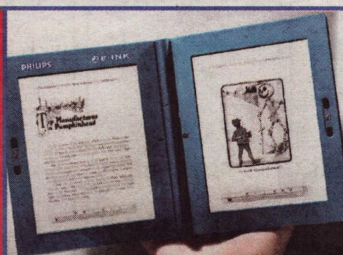
Smelly vision

A software company has come up with a way to bring new TV shows to life ... by adding smells. The Exalia software just needs to be plugged into your existing television and allows you a sniff of reality as it releases various pongs co-ordinated with

whatever you're watching on the box. And it won't be just for TV shows - the software could also be linked to computer games or your CD collection. The gadget should be in the shops this spring and, if you want a whiff of it, will set you back around £100.

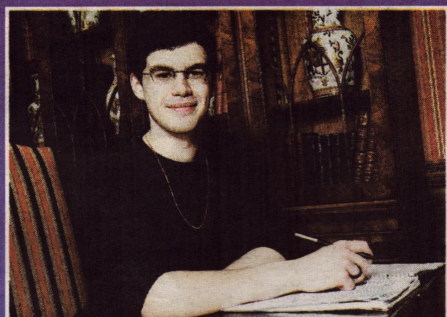
Book bytes

Bored with turning the pages of your books? Technical wizards at Philips are working on an e-book - a literary version of the iPod. The e-book is currently in development but experts are already extremely excited about the digital display, with two screens measuring 10cm x 15cm. Readers will be able to log onto publishers' websites and choose from a selection of reads for £5 per book. Plus, you won't have to worry about plugging it in wherever you go, the unit is powered by two AA batteries. The only downside is that the e-book will cost between £250 and £300.



DRAGON BOY

Christopher Paolini explains how he came to write a bestselling novel when he was just 15 years old

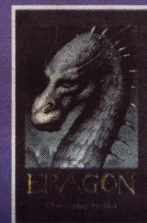


I grew up in Paradise Valley, Montana, and I think the landscape certainly influenced my writing. They could have filmed *The Lord Of The Rings* in Montana, it's that dramatic. We have the Bare Tooth Mountains on one side of the valley and we live right on the Yellowstone River. There is a lot of typical western wildlife, from bald eagles to antelope, bison and bear. My parents have always worked at home, and my mum was a trained teacher, so she started tutoring my sister and me from birth. We were several grades ahead by the time it came to go to school and so, rather than dropping two or three grades, my parents decided to teach us at home. Mum tended to teach us as long as she could hold

our attention spans. We took breaks when we wanted, but we never had a summer holiday. If we needed a day off, we just took it. When we got to high school, Mum said it would be unethical to teach us, so we went from being under direct supervision each day to having to teach ourselves, which was a bit of a challenge. It took me a few courses to get the hang of it, but once we did, my sister and I taught ourselves. The biggest gift I got from my parents was learning how to teach myself. Getting up every morning and working on my courses without somebody telling me to, translated very well when it came to writing. Growing up, if I wanted something of my own, I didn't have the money to buy it so I made things instead. I made my own chainmail, swords and huts. The joy of making something is, even if it's not as good as a machine can make it, you know it's better than if you bought it. It means something to you. Also, by making stuff, you learn a huge amount and the process itself is very rewarding. Once I graduated at 15, I had all this free time because I couldn't go to college or university for another three years, and by then, I had read all the fantasy fiction in my local library. I had a real feeling of "what now?" So, I wanted to write a story and I knew I wanted it to have a young boy with a sword, a dragon, dwarves, elves, magic,

mysterious villains – take all the elements that I enjoyed from fantasy books and combine them together with my own thoughts and ideas. I had tried writing several books before but after five or six pages I'd run out of ideas and wouldn't know what happened next. So, before I started *Eragon*, I read as many books as I could about how to create characters and construct plots. Then, as an exercise, I created an entire fantasy world and a story which I plotted out, like an outline. Next, I cracked my knuckles and tried to do it for real. I had read a book when I was younger called *Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher* in which a boy buys a stone that ends up hatching a dragon. I loved that idea so much that I started asking questions about it which got me started on the path to *Eragon*. I spent an entire month plotting out the trilogy, from start to finish. Some details have changed, but the overall strokes of the story have stayed the same since the beginning. Once I knew what was going to happen in all three books, that's when I finally sat down and started *Eragon*.

Eragon by Christopher Paolini is out now



AND THE WINNER IS...

Following the recent Write4GOSH prize-giving ceremony, Funday is proud to publish this year's winning story

Tough Times For The Letters Of The Alphabet by Amy Green [see right]

The letters of the alphabet were sitting in the employment office having a conversation.

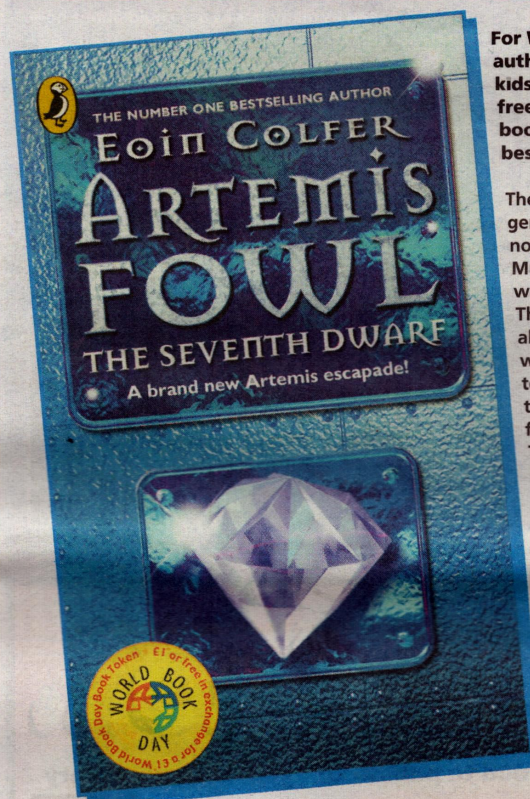
"I'm going to get a job because I'm the first letter of the alphabet!" A bragged.
"I'm hoping to get a job in the honey factory," said B.
"Why?" said Y.
"Because of my name, silly."
"You two are lucky, I'm way too chatty, so I don't get jobs!" complained C.
"When I go for a job and they ask me what sound I make, I sound so stupid!" D said sadly.
"Well, I lost my job because I'm often at the end of words so I was always late getting there," E said.
"I have it worse. I'm such a forgetful F that I even forget to apply!"
"I think he's better than me so he's always stealing my jobs," G said.
"Well, I have to always hurry around finding I's dotted hat," said H. "It makes it difficult to get work."
"I am so sorry," said I.
"G is just jealous of me," said J. "Nah, nah, nah, nah, nah," and he stuck out his tongue.

"I'm known by children as 'Kicking K' said the next letter. "No wonder I can't get a job!"
L said: "At Christmas time people sing: 'No L, No L.' I almost always lose my job then."
"But if there was no L, there wouldn't be an M, because L comes before me," said M.
"Well, I sound too much like M," said N. "I want to be known for myself."
O complained: "I get laughed at because I'm too round."
"Ha, ha," said nice slim I.
"I'm sure to get a job because I'm such a pretty P," said the next letter.
"My little sister U always tags along with me when I go for jobs," said Q. "That ruins my chances."
"When I work with W, I have to do all the work," said R. "He just sits there."
Then S bragged: "Well, whoever hires me will get more for their money because I make things plural!"
"I hold my arms out all day long," said T. "I'm too tired for wordzzzzzz."
"I wish my big sister Q realized how much she needs me," said U. "We could do a job together."
"Very, very, very sad," V said. "A..."
Suddenly W interrupted: "By the way, Mr R, I do a lot more work than you'll ever know. Arr, Arr!"

"I'm sad because I'm always in the past, like X-boyfriend or X-friend," said X. "Not much fun!"
"I don't get interviews because I over there always gets there first and gets the good jobs," said Y.
"Not!" I said.
"I'm always last in everything!" Z complained.
Just then, the employment officer walked into the room.
"I'm glad to say that we have just had a phone call and all of you are hired for a new game called Scrabble."
The letters screamed with joy as they jumped into the box.



BOOK YOU



For World Book Day, six specially-produced books by leading children's authors are available for £1 each – and with more than 13 million kids getting a £1 Book Token, it means you can have a completely free read! Funday has an exclusive extract from one of those books – Artemis Fowl: The Seventh Dwarf – by Puffin's best-selling Artemis Fowl author Eoin Colfer:

The stones had an unnatural sheen to them. Oily. Not clean like real gems. And the gold was too shiny. Nothing a human eye would notice. But gold is life to a dwarf. It is in their blood and dreams. Mulch lifted the tiara. It was too light. A tiara this size should weigh at least two pounds.

There were two possible conclusions to be drawn from all this. Either this was a decoy and the real tiara was safely hidden elsewhere, or this was a test, and he had been lured here to take that test. But lured here by whom? And for what purpose?

These questions were answered almost immediately. A giant Egyptian sarcophagus popped open in the deepest of the shadows, revealing two figures who were most definitely not mummies.

"Congratulations, Mulch Diggums," said the first, a pale boy with dark hair. Mulch noticed that he wore night vision goggles. The other was a giant bodyguard who Mulch had humiliated recently enough for it to still smart. The man's name was Butler, and he did not look in the best of moods.

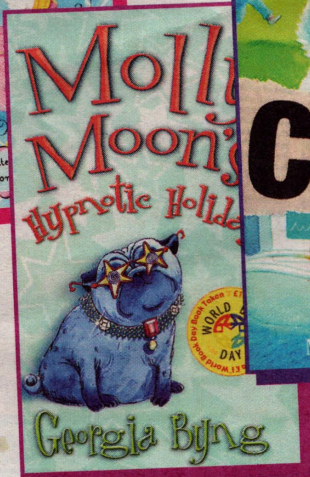
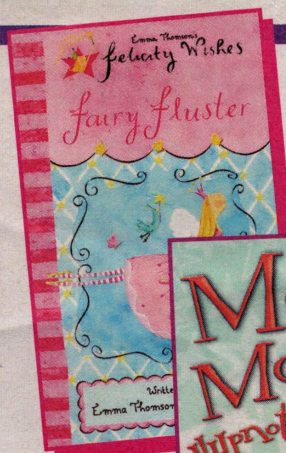
"You have passed my test," continued the boy, in confident tones. He straightened his suit jacket and stepped from the sarcophagus extending a hand.

"A pleasure to meet you. Mister Diggums, I am your new business partner. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is ..."

Mulch shook the hand. He knew who this boy was ...



Other special £1 WBD reads include: **Cool!** by Michael Morpurgo; **Molly Moon's Hypnotic Holiday** by Georgia Byng; **Felicity Wishes: Fairy Fluster** by Emma Thomson and **The Magnificent Mummies** by Tony Bradman, illustrated by Martin Chatterton



R PLACE

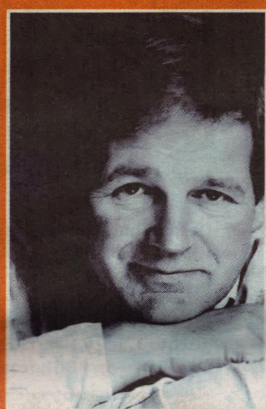
It's World Book Day on Thursday, so we celebrate with some special words of our own

CHARACTER STUDY

Who's your fictional hero? Funday asks six top authors who their favourite book characters were when they were growing up

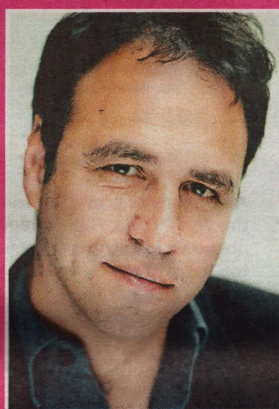
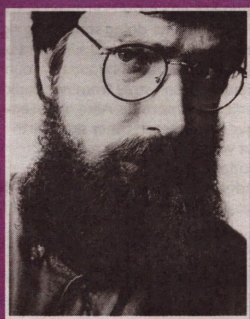
"From the first page of *Treasure Island* I was Jim Hawkins, the son of the innkeeper at the Admiral Benbow when the stranger, 'the brown old seaman', came to stay, singing his ditty, 'Fifteen men on a dead man's chest - Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum,' with his fearful tale of the one-legged seaman and the black spot. I lived his adventures on *Treasure Island*, felt his fear and his ultimate triumph over adversity. I just wish I could have written it myself!"

Children's Laureate
Michael Morpurgo



"I used to avidly read Tove Jansson's *Moomin* books when I was a boy and I still enjoy reading them now. My favourite book among them was *Comet in Moominland* and I would have loved to have been any one of the small band of extraordinary little animals in this weird and wonderful adventure: Moomintroll, Snifkin, Sniff or the Snork, though probably not the Snork Maiden [because she was a girl]. I most identified with Sniff because he wasn't very brave, liked things his own way and loved licking out the mixing bowl when Moominmamma had made something nice!"

Philip Ardagh



"I wanted to be Tintin. He was a writer - a journalist - and he seemed to have a fantastic life, travelling like the world, having adventures and never working! I loved he was always escaping through secret doors. There were doors behind

fireplaces, in the side of a pyramid, even in the trunk of a tree. To this day I think that a good book is like a secret door ... it opens into unexpected places. And I'm still, in my own way, trying to escape."

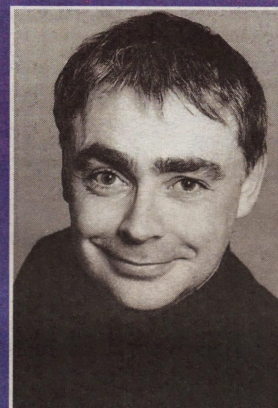
Anthony Horowitz



"I spent days trying to jump over my gran's flower-beds like the horse in *Black Beauty*. Gran got angry, and real horses turned out to be bumpier, too. Then

I bounced about, singing loudly and cheerfully, like Pollyanna, until Dad told me to be quiet. I longed to be brave and resourceful, like Arrietty in *The Borrowers*, or any of *The Railway Children*, but I was probably more of a Winnie-the-Pooh type. I wasn't going to end up a fairytale princess, ever, so my secret heroines were Minnie the Minx and Beryl the Peril. I also dreamed about sailing with Swallows and Amazons and solving mysteries with *The Famous Five*. All these characters took me to interesting new worlds."

Penny Dolan



"As a 10-year-old, I often wished that I was Huckleberry Finn, drifting down the Mississippi on a raft or lying in the reeds watching the sunset. This dream hit me hardest when trapped in a school desk on a hot day. If any

patch of green was visible through the classroom window, I would imagine myself sprawled upon it, straw hat perched on my head. On the verge of rolling down the hillside into the grasp on another adventure."

Eoin Colfer

"When I was an older child, I thought *Peanuts* with Charlie Brown was really funny. It was even called *Die Peanuts* in German. My dad worked in peanuts too, but that wasn't the reason I liked them. I thought Charlie Brown was a very likeable loser and he never gave up. I could also identify with Linus too, as I knew just what it

was like to have a big sister!"

Axel Scheffler - whose special World Book Day illustrations you can see around the page!



For more WBD info, click on www.worldbookday.com or chat online to J K Rowling at the World Book Day Online Festival on www.worldbookdayfestival.com on the day itself



Thursday 4th March 2004
www.worldbookday.com

THE FUNDAY TIMES

FIXTURE LIST

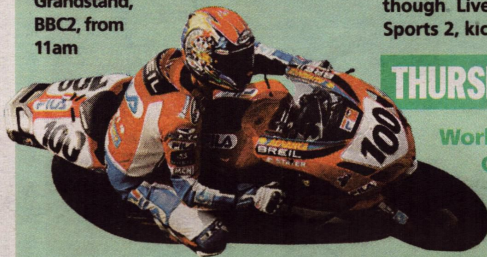
Your guide to the week's sporting action

FUNDAY **SPORT**

TODAY

Superbike World Championship, Valencia

It's the opening round in the new Superbike season. Reigning champion Neil Hodgson, from Burnley, has moved on to MotoGP so British hopes now rest with James Toseland and Leon Haslam who both enjoyed good results in the recent winter test. Live on Sunday Grandstand, BBC2, from 11am



Challenge Cup, Bradford Bulls v St Helens

This is the pick of today's two Challenge Cup clashes. Defending champions Bradford Bulls host St Helens in a repeat of the 2001 final which the Saints won. Live on BBC2, 2pm

Carling Cup final, Bolton Wanderers v Middlesbrough

It's refreshing to see two unfashionable Premiership clubs enjoying a big football final. The talent on show at Cardiff, though, is far from second-rate with the likes of Boro's Juninho and Gaizka Mendieta and Bolton's Jay-Jay Okocha and Youn Djourkoeff [above] likely to play. Live on Sky Sports 1, kick-off 2pm



TUESDAY

Nationwide Division One, Norwich City v West Bromwich Albion

The race for the Premiership is hotting up with this top-of-the-table clash between leaders Norwich City [right] and second place West Brom. The Canaries are pretty formidable on their home turf at Carrow Road, though. Live coverage is on Sky Sports 2, kick-off is at 7.45pm



THURSDAY

World Indoor Athletics Championships, Budapest

The focus for the athletics world this year is the Olympics in August, but we can also expect fireworks in the sprint events here, with Americans Gail Devers [below] and Allen Johnson and Britain's Jason Gardener looking to power to victory in the 60m



SATURDAY

FA Cup quarter-final, Manchester United v Fulham or West Ham

At the time of press, the winner of the West Ham v Fulham replay was unknown but whoever comes out on top has a tough task at Old Trafford. Watch the game live on Sky Sports 2, kick-off 12.30pm

Six Nations, Italy v Scotland

The battle for the wooden spoon looks to be settled with this game. It could be the ideal opportunity for the Azzurri to record only their third Six Nations victory – the first being against Scotland, in Rome, in 2000. Live on BBC1, kick-off 1.30pm

Six Nations, England v Ireland

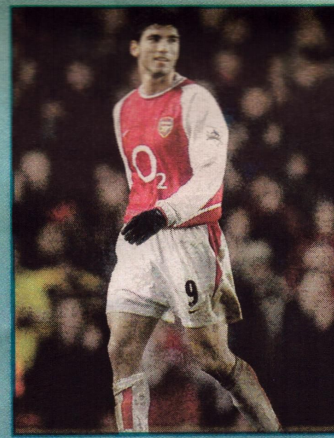
Clive Woodward's side return to Twickenham for the first time during this Six Nations.

Each team has been hit hard recently by injuries but hopefully with Brian O'Discoll and Jason Robinson both playing at centre, we could see some twinkle-toed running. Live on BBC1, kick-off 4pm



FA Cup quarter-final, Liverpool or Portsmouth v Arsenal

Despite not having home advantage, Arsenal still will be favourites for this sixth round tie. New boy Jose Antonio Reyes [below] sparkling in the fifth round and if he can line-up next to Thierry Henry – what a strike force! Live on BBC1, from 6pm



FRESH!

THE LEGEND OF SPUD MURPHY

by Eoin Colfer ★★★★★

Eoin Colfer's latest is a treat for young readers who may not be familiar with Artemis Fowl. Two brothers – Will and Marty – are pushed by their parents to spend afternoons in the library. A place where scary librarian Spud Murphy [so called because she uses a potato gun on unruly readers!] patrols the shelves. Complemented by Tony Ross's illustrations, this slight tale shines thanks to Eoin's deft storytelling, laugh-out-loud bits and brotherly banter.



BOOK

SPUDZ ★★★★★

Spudz are a crispy puffed-rice and potato snack which have been baked rather than fried. This means they contain less than 10% fat – which, as long as you don't eat bags and bags of them, makes them a lower fat snack compared with crisps. The oriental barbecue and sour cream & sweet chilli flavours get the thumbs up but the slightly odd taste of the smoked bacon & cheese didn't go down as well. Available in 40g bags, at 59p, they're an interesting rather than tasty treat.



SNACK

BEST FRIENDS

by Jacqueline Wilson ★★★★★

Being Britain's most borrowed author, Jacqueline Wilson must be doing something right. She has a unique way of empathising and understanding the dilemmas faced by today's young girls and Best Friends doesn't stray from her dedicated target audience. Opposites Alice and Gemma have known each other since birth – but when Alice has to move to Scotland – no one seems to understand how much it will hurt the two best friends. Heart-stirring stuff.



BOOK



With Funday you know what's going on!

STARS

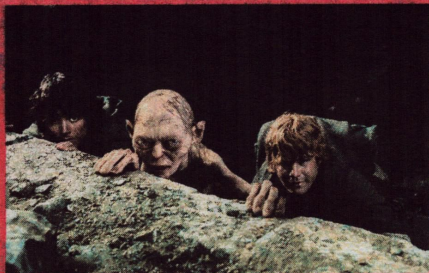
THE OSCAR GOES TO ...

Stars takes a look at the Best Picture and Best Animated Feature contenders ahead of tonight's Oscars ceremony

BEST PICTURE:

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING [cert 12A]

Frodo continues his quest to destroy the One Ring, and with his best friend Sam, the two of them continue their journey to Mount Doom with Gollum leading them. Meanwhile the rest of the Fellowship aid Rohan and Gondor in a great battle as Sauron wages his last war against Middle-Earth.



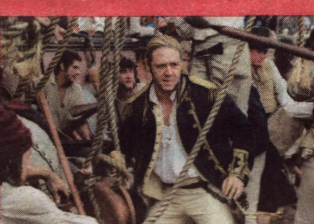
LOST IN TRANSLATION [cert 15]

Starring Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson. Two American strangers meet in a Tokyo hotel bar and hook up to tour the city, learning about the local culture and nightlife and the ability to enjoy their thoroughly stale lives again!



MASTER AND COMMANDER: THE FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD [cert 12A]

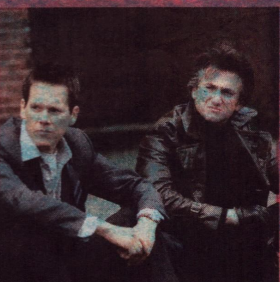
During the Napoleonic Wars, British frigate HMS Surprise and French warship Achéron



chase each other off of the coast of South America. Russell Crowe plays Captain Jack Aubrey or Lucky Jack [as his crew call him]. His crew have always put their trust in him and would fight to the death under his command – but will they trust his judgement this one time when all is not as it seems on the seas?

SEABISCUIT [cert PG]

This film is based on a true story about three men from different backgrounds who come together and work on making undersized horse Seabiscuit and his rider, Red, a champion in the world of horse racing.



MYSTIC RIVER [cert 15]

Three childhood friends, Jimmy [Sean Penn], Sean [Kevin Bacon] and Dave [Tim Robbins] are reunited following the death of Jimmy's eldest daughter.

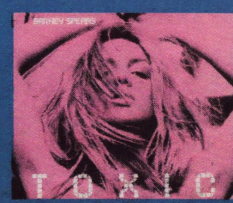
Although all friends, they meet up again for different reasons, Sean is the

detective dealing with the case while Jimmy is searching for revenge. Directed by Hollywood great Clint Eastwood.

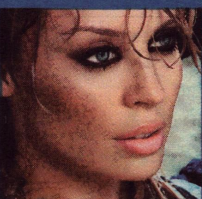
SINGLE FILE

TOXIC Britney Spears ★★★★★

Britney has made some peculiar life choices recently. Such as getting married in Las Vegas for an afternoon, and then there was the strange case of releasing the appalling



Me Against The Music when she had this far better poisonous little surprise up her sleeve. Whatever her motives, it's time to simply rejoice in the fact that Britney is back on top form with this chunky and rhythmic repeat-fest of a single. It might be Toxic, but we love it!



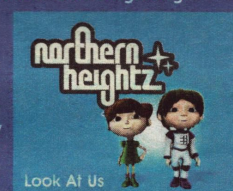
RED BLOODED WOMAN Kylie ★★★★★

With some truly iconic singles on her CV, Kylie always has such a lot to live up to these days. Her last single, Slow, split many Kylie fans – some hated it while most lapped it up and sent it rocketing up the charts. Feelings are unlikely to run as strongly with Red Blooded Woman though, because the song is a far more bland affair. And another thing, Kylie usually supplies some of the

best karaoke songs around, but Red Blooded Woman is no singalong!

LOOK AT US Northern Heights ★★★★★

What else do you need in the chilly winter months than a good dose of summer dance music to warm up the charts? This cute dance track has dream-like vocals over a traditional pumping dance beat. While it doesn't break any new ground, Northern Heights [made up of DJ/producer Pez Tellett and producer/remixers Ian Bland and Martin Neary, with vocals by Katie Halliday] will provide a welcome boost for dance music lovers who have been feeling undernourished recently.



BEST ANIMATED FEATURE:

BROTHER BEAR FINDING NEMO BELLEVILLE

RENDEZ-VOUS

Funday prediction:

Finding Nemo – After little clown fish Nemo gets lost in the ocean, over-protective daddy Marlin is determined to get him back. An hilarious adventure from beginning to end.



OSCAR FACTS

- The Oscars are also known as the Academy Awards
- The gold statuette got the nickname Oscar because one of the directors of the show thought that it looked like her Uncle Oscar
- The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, made up of previous winners and top film-making talent past and present, has more than 5,700 voting members
- Every member of the academy gets to vote but only those specialising in each category vote for that particular award. For example, directors are the only people who can vote for Achievement in Directing and so on. General categories such as Best Picture are voted for by the entire academy
- The inaugural Academy Awards took place at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel on May 16, 1929





NEXT WEEK



Find out why Mikey and Andrew from Phixx are having fun with pizza toppings!

Take a look at some of the world's endangered animals and discover what Earthwatch is doing to protect them

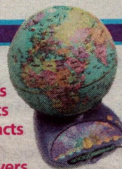
We catch up with smooth-voiced Jamie Cullum in New York



f-mail

MAKE THE LEAP

The Explorer Globe from LeapFrog is an interactive, talking globe that lets you gaze around the world, learn facts about countries and play one of six multi-level games for up to four players. If it's knowledge you're wanting, then have a look at the LeapPad Learning System. Place a special book from the LeapPad Library onto the LeapPad Platform and touch any page with the magic pen and the words, letters and stories read out loud - bringing learning to life. To celebrate the leap year, this week's star f-mailer will receive a Leapfrog Explorer Globe (£99.99). All other printed f-mailers will receive a LeapPad Learning System with all-new World Geography book.



STAR

Dear f-mail,
My mum wanted me to have a more healthy cereal than my usual Wheetos or Frosted Shreddies, which are full of sugar. When she went shopping, she looked at all the children's cereals but realised that they all contain too much sugar or chocolate. More and more children are becoming overweight and I think that, as breakfast is the most important meal of the day, it should be healthier. I have decided to stick to toast.
Stephen Devincenzi, Sevenoaks



Christopher Dunn, 10, Durham

Why do Egyptian crocodiles think they are alligators? Because they are in denial [the Nile]!

How does a farmer count his cattle? With a cowculator!

Where do you lock up a mad scientist? In a brain cell!
James Sanders, 9, Stratford-upon-Avon



Write on!

PRIZE HAUL

X-CITING PRIZES

The latest animated instalment from the mutant X-Men superheroes is out on DVD on March 22. The second in a set of four X-Men releases due out this year, X-Men: Evolution - Xplosive Days, Season 1 Volume 2 contains three episodes: Mutant Crush, Speed and Spyke and Middleverse. The DVD also includes a couple of cool extras in the form of introductions to each episode and The Art Of X-Men featurette. Warner Home Video has teamed up with the gadgetshop to offer four readers a Tablet DVD player (which has an 18cm-wide screen, plays DVDs, CDs and MP3s and can be strapped to car headrests) and a copy of X-Men: Evolution - Xplosive Days. Plus, 10 runners up win a copy of the DVD.



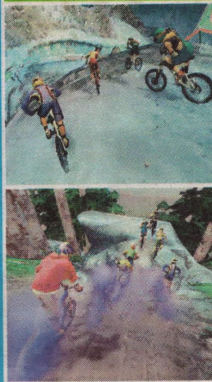
To enter, tell us what Professor Xavier's mutant power is

Mark your entry X-MEN and send it, with your name, age, address and home phone number, to the competition address below.



Normal TNL competition rules apply to all Funday Times competitions

MOUNTAIN MADNESS



Bored with your run-of-the-mill race action? Here's a brand new game that's guaranteed to blow away the cobwebs.

Downhill Domination is the only downhill mountain bike racing game on PS2 and well worthy of the title. Choose from 14 riders and race your opponents through canyons, streets and forests while dodging obstacles - including trees, animals, hikers and other bikers! There are more than 27 courses, plus 30 tricks and aerial stunts to perfect, all from the comfort of your couch! You can find out more by clicking on www.codemasters.com/downhilldomination

Codemasters is offering two readers a Giant MTX 250 DS mountain bike and helmet, a PlayStation 2 console and a copy of Downhill Domination. Plus, 12 runners up will receive a copy of the game.

To enter, tell us the name of the tallest mountain in Britain.

Mark your entry DOWNHILL and send it, with your name, age, address and home phone number, to the competition address below.



THE FUNDAY TIMES

***** COMPETITIONS *****

Send answers to Prize Haul to us at:
The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU95 1AY
or funday.comps@sunday-times.co.uk
[only one e-mail per entrant please]
Competition deadline: March 10
Entrants to Funday competitions must be 16 and under

***** F-MAIL *****

Send your letters, cartoons, jokes and drawings to:
The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX
or funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk

***** NOT RECEIVED YOUR PRIZE? *****

Please telephone 020 7711 1521 or e-mail custserv@fundaytimes.co.uk

***** GOT A NEWS STORY? *****

Please telephone 020 7782 7415
or e-mail funday.news@sunday-times.co.uk



Molly Jarmar, 9.
Bexleyheath

Dear f-mail,
The Government want to ban fatty foods such as crisps and burgers because children are getting quite large. I think they should not stop selling these at schools but start limiting each child on how much of these fatty foods they eat. Please think about this.

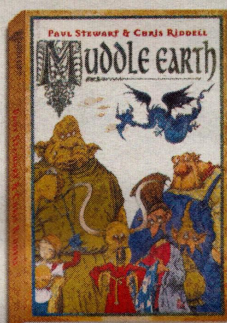
Mike Read,
via e-mail



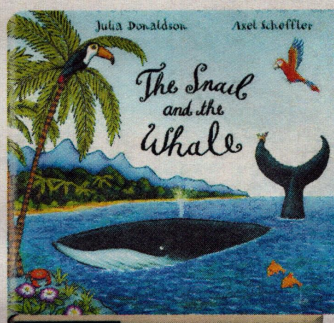
Dear f-mail,
I love the Funday Times.
Scooby-Doo is the best!
Amanda Fox, 5, Sefton

Funday has the best prizes!

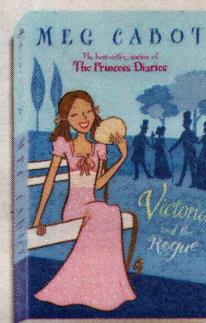
Spend your World Book Day token and get £1 off ANY children's book at WHSmith.



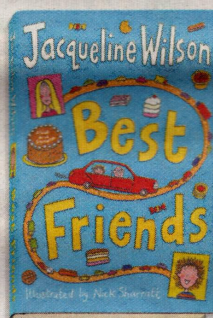
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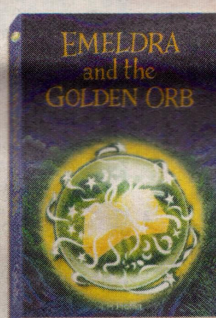
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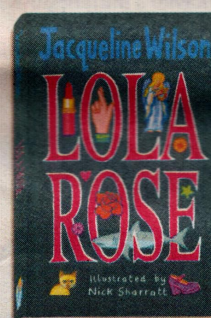
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